

Cuyahoga Valley National Park Mailing Address: 15610 Vaughn Road Brecksville OH 44141 Visitor Center: 1550 Boston Mills Road Peninsula, OH 44264 www.nps.gov/cuva

# Cuyahoga Valley National Park News Release

For Immediate Release – Thursday, July 12, 2012 Mary Pat Doorley, CVNP, 440-546-5995, 440-343-7355 (cell), or mary\_pat\_doorley@nps.gov

## Help End Growing Invasive Plant Problem in National Park

**Brecksville, Ohio -** Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) is offering a variety of programming this summer in an effort to educate kids and adults about the threat of invasive plants and the importance of using native plants in home landscaping.

Invasive plants are a growing problem throughout the Great Lakes region. Garlic mustard, autumn olive, multiflora rose, and honeysuckle are among the worst offenders in northeast Ohio. CVNP uses a variety of techniques to combat invasive plant communities that threaten the park's biodiversity and ecosystem health.

CVNP is offering a series of native gardening workshops, invasive plant identification hikes, and Junior Ranger programs this summer that will engage kids in the invasive plant problem.

#### **Scheduled Events:**

#### Go Native! Workshops

You may be surprised to learn that some of your favorite garden plants are invasive, threatening native plants with their aggressive habits. Join park staff and other experts to learn more about these offenders and how to replace them in your landscaping. To register call 330-657-2752.

Thursday, July 26
Attracting Wildlife with Native Plants
Boston Store, 6 - 8 p.m.

Friday, August 24

Identifying and Removing Invasive Plants
Hunt Farm Visitor Information Center, 5 - 7p.m.

#### **Pesky Plant Hikes**

Invasive plants are threatening the Cuyahoga Valley's biodiversity and native wildlife. Join park staff for a hike to learn more about the park's most common invasive plants.

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Sunday, July 15 **Field Fight**Canal Visitor Center, 9 - 11 a.m.

Sunday, August 12 **Marsh Mayhem** Ira Trailhead, 2 - 4 p.m.

### **Junior Ranger Programs**

Monday, July 30

#### **Green Alien Invaders**

Help fight the green aliens invading Cuyahoga Valley forests through games and fun-filled activities. 2 - 4 p.m. Fee: \$8 per child, \$5 Conservancy members. A parent or guardian is required to attend programs with participating children; no charge for adults. To register, call 800- 642-3297ext. 100. Locations provided upon registration.

Boston Store Visitor Center is located at 1550 Boston Mills Road, Peninsula 44264.

Canal Visitor Center is located at 7104 Canal Road, Valley View 44125.

Hunt Farm Visitor Information Center is located at 2054 Bolanz Road, Peninsula 44264.

Ira Trailhead is located at 3801 Riverview Road, Peninsula 44164.

CVNP encompasses 33,000 acres along the Cuyahoga River between Cleveland and Akron, Ohio. Managed by the National Park Service, CVNP combines cultural, historical, recreational, and natural activities in one setting. For more information visit <a href="www.nps.gov/cuva">www.nps.gov/cuva</a> or call 330-657-2752 or 800-257-9477.

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